

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): A computerized method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the litigation-related documents, including:

organizing the litigation-related documents in a data structure; and

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and

providing one or more uniform templates for presentation of the litigation-related documents; and

selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, further including selectively permitting downloading of the litigation-related documents in a plurality of formats.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further including:

receiving a request to download one of the litigation-related documents;

receiving an indication of a requested format for the one litigation-related document; and

providing the one litigation-related document in the requested format.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the selectively providing step includes:

receiving a search query for the litigation-related documents;

searching the litigation-related documents based upon the search query; and

providing results of the searching.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the receiving step includes receiving the litigation-related documents via e-mail.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 2, further including receiving an electronic version of documents referenced by the litigation-related documents.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the receiving the electronic version step includes receiving exhibits associated with the litigation-related documents.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7 wherein the maintaining step includes:
organizing the electronic version of the referenced documents in the data structure;
and
associating the referenced documents with the corresponding litigation-related documents.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the maintaining step includes maintaining the litigation-related documents as a neutral third party with respect to the representatives.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 2, further including maintaining a separate repository containing hard copies of the litigation-related documents.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 2, further including charging users a fee for on-line access to the litigation-related documents in the central repository

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein the step of charging a fee includes charging one or more of the following: a flat fee based upon a time period; a fee based upon time of use; a fee based upon downloading of the litigation-related documents; a fee based upon uploading of the litigation-related documents to the central repository; or discounted fees based upon particular criteria related to the users.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computerized method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the litigation-related documents, including:

organizing the litigation-related documents in a data structure; and

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed;

selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents; and

The method of claim 2, further including

permitting a user to access on-line the litigation-related documents in the central repository in exchange for the user's agreement to receive on-line advertisements.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 2, further including permitting a user to select options to access on-line the litigation-related documents, the options including paying a fee and not agreeing to receive on-line advertisements, and paying no fee and agreeing to receive the on-line advertisements.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 2, further including providing users with on-line advertisement space at no fee or at a reduced fee in exchange for the users agreeing to require others to use the central repository.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A computerized method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the litigation-related documents, including:

organizing the litigation-related documents in a data structure; and

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and

selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents; and

~~The method of claim 2, further including~~

hyperlinking the litigation-related documents with information referenced in the litigation-related documents.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18 wherein the hyperlinking step includes hyperlinking one or more of the following with the litigation-related documents: exhibits; case law; statutes; secondary authorities; or other authorities.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An apparatus for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

an electronically accessible network location;

a central repository for specifying a data structure for storing information; and

a machine for maintaining the network location and storing information in the central repository, the machine operating to perform a method including:

uploading litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives via the network location without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

storing the litigation-related documents in the central repository;

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the

corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed; and

selectively downloading the stored litigation-related documents; and

an access module for permitting a user to access on-line the litigation-related documents in the central repository in exchange for the user's agreement to receive on-line advertisements.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the electronically accessible network location includes a web site accessible via a network address.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, further including a site map for organizing a structure of information accessible via the web site.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the selectively downloading step includes permitting downloading of the litigation-related documents in a plurality of formats.

Claim 24 (original): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the method further includes:

receiving a request to download one of the litigation-related documents;
receiving an indication of a requested format for the one litigation-related document;
and
providing the one litigation-related document in the requested format.

Claim 25 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the method further includes selectively providing access to the litigation-related documents.

Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the selectively providing step includes:

receiving a search query for the litigation-related documents;
searching the litigation-related documents based upon the search query; and
providing results of the searching.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the uploading step includes receiving the litigation-related documents via e-mail.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 20- wherein the method further includes receiving electronic version of documents referenced by the litigation-related documents.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the receiving the electronic version step includes receiving exhibits associated with the litigation-related documents.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the storing step includes:

storing the electronic version of the referenced documents in the central repository;
and
associating the referenced documents with the corresponding litigation-related documents.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the storing step includes maintaining the litigation-related documents as a neutral third party with respect to the representatives.

Claim 32 (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the storing step includes providing one or more uniform templates for presentation of the litigation-related documents.

Claim 33 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, further including a module for maintaining a separate repository containing hard copies of the litigation-related documents.

Claim 34 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, further including a fee module for charging users a fee for on-line access to the litigation-related documents in the central repository.

Claim 35 (original): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fee module includes a module for charging one or more of the following: a flat fee based upon a time period; a fee based upon time of use; a fee based upon downloading of the litigation-related documents; a fee based upon uploading of the litigation-related documents to the central repository; or discounted fees based upon particular criteria related to the users.

Claim 36 (canceled).

Claim 37 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, further including an access module for permitting a user to select options to access on-line the litigation-related documents, the options including paying a fee and not agreeing to receive on-line advertisements, and paying no fee and agreeing to receive the on-line advertisements.

Claim 38 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, further including an advertisement module for providing users with on-line advertisement space at no fee or at a reduced fee in exchange for the users agreeing to require others to use the central repository.

Claim 39 (original): The apparatus of claim 20, further including a linking module for hyperlinking the litigation-related documents with information referenced in the litigation-related documents.

Claim 40 (original): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the linking module includes a module for hyperlinking one or more of the following with the litigation-related documents: exhibits; case law; statutes; secondary authorities; or other authorities.

Claims 41-44 (canceled).

Claim 45 (new): A method for providing dedicated online-accessible document storage and handling services, wherein the services are provided by a business entity as a supplement or alternative to public courthouse services, comprising:

receiving, at the business entity, one or more electronic documents from an uploading party per specifications and terms agreed upon by the uploading party and the business entity;

securing the received one or more electronic documents in a non-alterable format into an electronic data repository per the specifications and terms agreed upon by the uploading party and the business entity, wherein the securing includes identifying the uploading party with the received one or more electronic documents and time and date stamping the received one or more electronic documents; and

providing electronic access and searchability of the one or more electronic documents, and contents of the one or more electronic documents, to one or more downloading parties per specifications agreed upon by the one or more downloading parties and the business entity.

Claim 46 (new): The method of 45 wherein the specifications and terms agreed to by the uploading party and the business entity include publicly-disclosed and fixed fees charged to the uploading party for the document storage and handling services and prohibit the business entity from providing any other services to the uploading party.

Claim 47 (new): The method of 46 wherein the fees charged to the uploading party may be paid for by the uploading party agreeing to receive advertising that generates net revenue for the business entity at least equal to the fees charged.

Claim 48 (new): The method of 45 wherein the specifications and terms agreed to by the uploading party and the business entity and by the one or more downloading parties and the business entity include publicly-disclosed and fixed fees charged to the uploading party and the one or more downloading parties and require the business entity to provide the document

storage and handling services to any uploading or downloading party that agrees to pay the fees or to receive advertising that generates net revenue for the business entity at least equal to the fees charged.

Claim 49 (new): The method of 45 further comprising:

charging the uploading party and the one or more downloading parties publicly-disclosed and fixed fees for providing the document storage and handling services; and

providing the document storage and handling services to any uploading or downloading party that agrees to pay the publicly-disclosed and fixed fees or to receive advertising that generates net revenue for the business entity at least equal to the fees charged.

Claim 50 (new): The method of claim 45 further comprising:

if a downloading party's or the uploading party's identity is disclosed on a website of the business entity, the business entity accepting advertising revenue or investment capital from the identified downloading party or uploading party.

Claim 51 (new): A computerized method for compiling and maintaining litigation-related documents, comprising:

receiving litigation-related documents, filed with adjudication entities, from corresponding representatives without requiring submission of the documents by or to the adjudication entities;

maintaining a central repository for electronically storing the litigation-related documents, including:

organizing the litigation-related documents in a data structure;

associating each of the litigation-related documents with the corresponding adjudication entity in which the litigation-related document was filed;

hyperlinking the litigation-related documents with information referenced in the litigation-related documents; and

providing one or more uniform templates for presentation of the litigation-related documents; and

selectively providing access to the stored litigation-related documents based on a fee charged for access or advertising provided in lieu of the fee.